

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Workshop

Merv George, Administrator, Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

December 13, 2002

Panel Report on the Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

The Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) was formed in 1995 and is comprised of four tribes: Klamath, Yurok, Hoopa Valley and Karuk. In 1999, KRITFC incorporated as a 501(c)(3). Mr. George left the Hoopa Tribe in June 2000 to work for KRITFC, which currently has three staff members:

- Coordinator
- Local fish biologist
- Administrator

Infrastructure of KRITFC is consensus based. They desire a relationship with agencies based on trust, but this can also hinder restoration progress. Grants are received from the Bureau of Reclamation and others. The Hoopa and Yurok tribes both worked with NOAA Fisheries for \$1,050,000 and even though received late, those dollars are still being put to work on-the-ground. A list of completed and on-going projects can be received by contacting KRITFC directly.

Agricultural water delivery resulted in the loss of 40,000 fish in the fall of 2002 which makes restoration of fish populations difficult. One very important message that must be understood by all and that is: **fish need water!**

Management strategies based on Endangered Species Act listed fish *only* are not effective; we also need to protect those fish that are NOT currently listed.

KRITFC is open to accountability suggestions. Mr. George will recommend reporting styles to KRITFC as the program is being reviewed by other groups. There are economic gains to be realized through fish recovery. The Tribes need to network and to educate as much as possible.